

Lederberg

December 29, 1958

Dr. Wallace R. Brode  
Science Adviser  
Department of State  
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Dr. Brode:

A recent issue of Science carried the names of a number of your appointments of Science Officers to be attached to various embassies overseas. It also indicated that appointments were soon to be made of Deputy Science Officers whose terms would overlap those of the principal appointments.

I do not know the procedure by which you are being advised for these appointments, and hope this ignorance may excuse any possible impropriety on my part in forwarding a nomination. I would ask the opportunity to bring to your attention the name of Professor Francis J. Ryan of Columbia University for the post in Tokyo. Ryan's academic connection for some years has been as Professor of Zoology, but his research interests in fact have been in the fields of microbiology and genetics -- my own introduction to serious scientific research came about, in fact, in his laboratory about 13 years ago.

Professor Ryan's professional standing is perhaps best warranted by his several years of service with the Genetics and Morphology Study Section of the National Institutes of Health, and by his present membership on the Genetics Training Grants Review Committee of the NIH. He was a Fulbright visiting professor at the University of Tokyo, Institute of Applied Microbiology, and this experience gave him the profound sympathy for Japanese culture, and contacts with innumerable Japanese scientists, that are the chief basis for my suggesting him. As far as I can judge, Ryan's standing as a scientist compares very favorably indeed with the appointees already announced, and it would leave a remarkable opportunity unexploited if his interest and enthusiasm were not tapped by the nation for this important position.

Yours sincerely,

Joshua Lederberg  
Professor of Genetics

JL/ew  
cc-Dr. G. W. Beadle

New address after January 20, 1959.